

economy, improve our environment, and preserve our precious natural resources for the sake of generations to come.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2000, as America Recycles Day. I urge all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to take personal responsibility for the environment not only by recycling, but also by choosing to purchase and use products made from recycled materials.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:02 a.m., November 16, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 16, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 17.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan in Bandar Seri Begawan

November 16, 2000

APEC Summit

Q. Mr. President, are you disappointed at the lack of consensus on free trade at APEC?

The President. I might have more to say about that before we go. Don't be too discouraged.

2000 Presidential Election

Q. How about the Florida court ruling, sir?

The President. I'm over here, so I'm not sure what it means. It's obviously going to have to be interpreted now, since the two sides have a different reading on it.

Q. How about the secretary of state denying the hand recount?

The President. I'm over here doing this work; I don't think I should get involved in

that. The American people deserve a full and fair count, and I hope the process will produce it. And they're over there debating it in the appropriate way. I shouldn't be involved in that.

Q. Should Gore and Bush meet?

The President. What?

Q. Should Gore and Bush meet?

The President. I don't think I should be involved in that.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:20 p.m. at the Royal Brunei Golf Club. In his remarks, the President referred to Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush. A reporter referred to Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Jiang Zemin of China in Bandar Seri Begawan

November 16, 2000

2000 Presidential Election

Q. President Clinton, do you feel the chaos in Florida makes it difficult for the U.S. to criticize other countries' elections?

The President. Well, first of all, they're having their—let's wait and see how it's resolved here. I think that there will be a lot of pressure to improve the form and ballots and the methods in voting and have more clear standards around the country. But I think as long as this thing is resolved in a way that people perceive as fair and having counted everybody's vote who lawfully went to the polls to vote—I think that it shouldn't be surprising if over 100 million people vote and the result is close—it takes a while to resolve. It depends on whether the people perceive it's fair when it's over.

China-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, what message do you have for your successor on U.S.-China relations?

The President. That I believe we have made some real progress in developing a mature, honest, and open relationship that is basically quite positive. And I'm very pleased that the Congress approved the permanent

normal trading relations and that China's going into the World Trade Organization. I'm very pleased that the work we've done together on nonproliferation and a host of other items, and I think we should continue to build on this relationship. I think it's very important for the United States. And I hope that we'll continue to be active across a whole broad range of issues, including through this organization, to build a common economic future. That would be my message.

You probably want to know more about it than my successor will.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:53 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the Orchid Garden Hotel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Joint Statement by President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on a United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement

November 16, 2000

The United States of America (USA) and Singapore have agreed to start negotiations on a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

USA and Singapore are both firm supporters of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and are committed to APEC's Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment by 2010 for industrialized economies and 2020 for developing economies.

The USA and Singapore reaffirm their strong commitment to the multilateral trading system and the launch of a New Round in 2001.

The FTA will be modeled after the US-Jordan FTA.

We have directed Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky and Minister George Yeo to endeavor to conclude negotiations before the end of the year.

NOTE: The joint statement referred to Minister of Trade and Industry Yong Boon George Yeo of Singapore. An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Signing the FSC Repeal and Extraterritorial Income Exclusion Act of 2000

November 15, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 4986, the "FSC Repeal and Extraterritorial Income Exclusion Act of 2000." This legislation is necessary to address a World Trade Organization Appellate Body finding that the Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) provisions of U.S. tax law violated the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, and the Agreement on Agriculture. Enactment of this legislation is possible due to extraordinary bipartisan cooperation between the Congress and my Administration and the strong involvement of the business community.

Never before has the United States had to enact legislation—and particularly legislation in the sensitive field of taxation policy—in order to implement the findings of a dispute settlement panel of the World Trade Organization (WTO). We believe that this legislation specifically addresses the concerns raised by the WTO Appellate Body and will be found to be WTO-compliant.

Under a procedural agreement reached between the European Union and the United States, enactment of this legislation will avoid an immediate confrontation with the EU by ensuring that the World Trade Organization must review the new law before any decision authorizing retaliation may be made. We plan to continue working with the EU to manage this difference of views responsibly and to avoid any harm to our strong bilateral relationship, and we remain open to further discussions with the EU about resolving this issue.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 15, 2000.

NOTE: At the time of publication, H.R. 4986, approved November 15, had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for assignment of a public law number. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 17.